

1 **CLAIMS**

2 What is claimed is:

3
4 1. A computer-implemented method comprising:

5 receiving information about a multimedia content stream generated by a
6 device in a computer network, wherein the received information includes a
7 specified time associated with the multimedia content stream;

8 scheduling a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified
9 time; and

10 at the specified time,

11 receiving the multimedia content stream from the device; and

12 saving the multimedia content stream in a system memory.

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14 2. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
15 the device is a content server connected to the computer network.

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17 3. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
18 the information about the multimedia content stream includes a network address
19 associated with the location.

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21 4. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 3, wherein
22 the network address is a uniform resource locator (URL).

1 5. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
2 the information about the multimedia content stream is received through an
3 application program interface.

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5 6. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 5, wherein
6 the application program interface includes a distributed component object model
7 (DCOM) interface.

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9 7. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
10 receiving information about the multimedia content stream includes receiving a
11 scheduled recording task.

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13 8. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 7, wherein
14 the scheduled recording task includes at least one of a unique task identifier, a user
15 account identifier, a title, a start time, a start date, an end time, an end date, a
16 recording duration, a URL, a local storage location, a recording quality identifier,
17 and connection settings.

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19 9. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, further
20 comprising at the specified time, automatically connecting to the device.

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22 10. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 9, wherein
23 automatically connecting to the device is performed in accordance with connection
24 settings included in the information about the multimedia content stream.

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2 11. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
3 receiving the multimedia content stream includes specifying a quality of the
4 stream.

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6 12. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
7 receiving the multimedia content stream includes specifying a quality of the
8 stream in relation to a bandwidth associated with a network connection.

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10 13. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
11 the multimedia content stream includes at least one of an on-demand content
12 stream and a broadcast content stream.

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14 14. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
15 the computer network includes at least one of a local area network (LAN), a wide
16 area network (WAN), and the Internet.

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18 15. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
19 program that is executable by a processor to perform the computer-implemented
20 method recited in Claim 1.

21
22 16. A computer-implemented method comprising:
23 enabling a user to schedule a recording of a multimedia content stream at a
24 specified time;
25

1 creating a scheduled recording task that includes information about the
2 recording of the multimedia content stream;
3 sending the scheduled recording task to a recording service configured to
4 perform the scheduled recording task; and
5 tracking the scheduled recording task.

6
7 17. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein
8 enabling the user to schedule the recording includes providing a user interface that
9 enables the user to input the information about the recording.

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11 18. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein
12 the information about the recording includes at least one of a title, a start time, a
13 start date, an end time, an end date, a recording duration, a URL, a location in
14 system memory, a recording quality identifier, recurring data, and connection
15 settings.

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17 19. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein
18 enabling the user to schedule the recording includes enabling the user to create
19 recurring recordings.

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21 20. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein
22 sending the scheduled recording task to the recording service includes interacting
23 with the recording service through an application program interface.

1 21. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 20, wherein
2 the application program interface is a DCOM interface.

3
4 22. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein
5 tracking the scheduled recording task includes obtaining a status of the scheduled
6 recording task from the recording service.

7
8 23. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 22, wherein
9 tracking the scheduled recording task includes providing the status to the user.

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11 24. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, further
12 comprising if the multimedia content stream is successfully recorded, enabling the
13 user to access the recorded multimedia content stream.

14
15 25. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
16 program that is executable by a processor to perform the computer-implemented
17 method recited in Claim 16.

18
19 26. An apparatus comprising:
20 means for receiving information about a multimedia content stream
21 provided by a device coupled to a computer network;
22 means for scheduling a recording of the multimedia content stream at a
23 specified time;
24 means for receiving the multimedia content stream from the location; and
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1 means for saving the multimedia content stream in a storage device.

2
3 27. The apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising means for
4 receiving the information from one or more application programs.

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6 28. The apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising means for
7 implementing a digital rights management (DRM) system.

8
9 29. An apparatus comprising:
10 means for enabling a user to schedule a recording of a multimedia content
11 stream at a specified time;
12 means for creating a scheduled recording task that includes information
13 about the recording;
14 means for sending the scheduled recording task to a recording service
15 configured to perform the scheduled recording task; and
16 means for tracking the scheduled recording task.

17
18 30. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29, further comprising means for
19 providing a user interface to the user.

20
21 31. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29, further comprising means for
22 enabling the user to create recurring recordings.

1 32. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
2 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
3 or more processors to:

4 determine information about a multimedia content stream provided at a
5 device coupled to a computer network, wherein the determined information
6 includes a specified time associated with the multimedia content stream;

7 schedule a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time;

8 and

9 at the specified time,

10 receive the multimedia content stream from the device; and

11 save the multimedia content stream in a storage device.

12
13 33. One or more computer-readable media as recited in Claim 32,
14 wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to obtain
15 the information from a user through a user interface.

16
17 34. One or more computer-readable media as recited in Claim 32,
18 wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to obtain
19 the information from a content index.

20
21 35. A computer comprising:
22 a network interface configured to connect to a computer network; and
23 a memory that includes a scheduled recording service configured to receive
24 a scheduled recording task that includes information about a multimedia content
25

1 stream provided by a device in the computer network, schedule a recording of the
2 multimedia content stream at a specified time, receiving the multimedia content
3 stream from the device, and save the multimedia content stream in the memory.
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5 36. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled
6 recording service is further configured to provide an application program interface
7 for interacting with application programs.
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9 37. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled
10 recording service is further configured to operate independent of a user account.
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12 38. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled
13 recording service is further configured to automatically establish a network
14 connection with the device through the network interface for receiving the
15 multimedia content stream.
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17 39. The computer as recited in Claim 38, wherein the scheduled
18 recording service is further configured to specify a quality associated with the
19 multimedia content stream.
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21 40. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled
22 recording service is further configured to maintain a configuration file that
23 includes information about the scheduled recording task.
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1 41. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled
2 recording service is further configured to maintain a log file that includes a status
3 associated with the scheduled recording task.

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5 42. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the memory further
6 includes a scheduling application configured to enable a user to schedule a
7 recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time, create the
8 scheduled recording task that includes the information about the recording, send
9 the scheduled recording task to the scheduled recording service; and track the
10 scheduled recording task.

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12 43. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling
13 application is further configured to provide a user interface to the user for
14 scheduling the recording.

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16 44. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling
17 application is further configured to provide a user interface to the user for tracking
18 the recording.

19
20 45. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling
21 application is further configured to enable the user to schedule recurring
22 recordings.